The Common Cause

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Notes and News.

Danish Women M.P.'s.

We are deeply interested to hear from the International Women's Suffrage Alliance that at the General Election in Denmark, at the end of April, four women were elected as members of the Lower House of the Danish Parliament. They are Mrs. Munch, wife of the Minister of War, President of the Danish Women's Suffrage Society, and a member of the Radical Party; Mrs. Larsen, a member of the Social-Democratic Party; Mrs Malling-Hanschutly, a barrister, and a member of the Conservative Party; and Miss Karem Aukerstead, who is also a Conservative. Both Mrs. Munch and Mrs. Larsen are members of the Municipal Council of Copenhagen, and Miss Aukerstead is a member of the Municipal Council of Friedivelsburgs. The elections for the Danish Upper House were to take place on May 11th, but we have, as yet, no news as to the part taken by women. It is, however, encouraging to know that in the April elections they were very active indeed, and that at least seventy-five per cent. of them are believed to have voted.

President Wilson and the Suffrage Amendment.

According to *The Times*, President Wilson is "bringing pressure to bear on the Senate to pass the amendment to the constitution of the United States relating to woman suffrage. It is necessary for the women to obtain a two-thirds majority in the Senate in order to win, and the Conservative elements, Republicans, and Southern Democrats, are offering strong opposition. President Wilson is making it plain to recalcitrants that he regards the passage of the amendment as a duty that cannot be ignored. It is understood that if, by the time the amendment comes up for the vote, the suffrage leaders have not the necessary majority of two-thirds—and present indications are that they lack two votes—the President will give them real and substantial aid." Most of this is confirmed by the information we have ourselves received from America. President Wilson is showing himself a consistent upholder of Democracy. Women's Suffrage is an important part of those ideals, of which he has come to stand as the chief exponent in the eyes of the world.

Electors' Lists.

It is announced that the publication of the Electors' Lists, fixed for June 15th, is postponed until June 29th. It is understood that the object of this postponement is to ensure that the lists should be complete.

Scottish University Women Electors.

We are glad to be able to report that in three of the four Scottish Universities—namely Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh—women graduates are being enrolled on the parliamentary register without any claim being required. St. Andrews, on the other hand, is circularising its women graduates requiring them to make a claim, although the women there also are enrolled on the University General Council Register, and had entered their ages on matriculation. The Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union, from its Annual Business Meeting, has sent a protest to the St. Andrews University Court regretting that the women graduates of St. Andrews have thus been placed at a disadvantage as compared with the other women electors in the same constituency, and pointing out that to require from them a claim has seemed to call in question the *bona fides* of the declaration as to age made by St. Andrews University women on signing the matriculation roll. They urged that at least the women who graduated before 1905, and who, therefore, might reasonably be presumed to have reached the age of thirty, might be placed automatically upon the electoral register. Notwithstanding that the majority of Scottish women graduates are to be enrolled without making a claim, every woman, if she has not already done so, should send to the Registrar of her University her latest permanent address. Voting papers are sent through the post to the latest address thus supplied, and at every election many papers fail to reach the addresses because the Registrars have not been notified of the latest address.

Oxford University Women Electors.

The University of Oxford, before registering Women as Parliamentary Electors on a form supplied by the Registrar is requiring them to make applications, in which they are asked to state that they are thirty or over, and are British subjects. Certificates of having passed the required examinations, and kept the requisite number of terms of residence, must accompany the applications. No fee is charged for such registration, the Act having inadvertently been so drafted that the University required it only from graduates. By the Act, any woman of thirty or more is qualified who "has been admitted to and has passed the final examination, and kept under the conditions required of women by the University the period of residence necessary for a man to obtain a degree." Residence is understood in the ordinary sense of keeping terms by sleeping in term for a specified number of days within a mile and a-half of Carfax—the centre of the town. The period of residence required of a man for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts is nine terms, and the women who have taken the final examination for this Degree will therefore require to have resided for nine terms before being qualified for registration. Since, however, for the degrees of B.Litt. and B.Sc. only six terms are required, there is a corresponding shortening of the period for women who obtain B.Litt. and B.Sc. Certificates; while a woman taking the examinations for the Mus. Bac. can be registered for a Parliamentary vote without residence. Oxford women who have not yet received claim forms should apply for them to the University Registrar,

and, as many University women are now abroad on war work, their friends should supply the necessary information to the University authorities in order that these women may not be omitted from the voting lists. The register is made up on the last day of the Trinity term and the last day of the Michaelmas term, and the voting is by means of a voting paper sent through the post, so that it is important that electors should remember to notify any change of permanent address to the Registrar.

The Principal and resident staffs of the women's colleges are being entered on as Parliamentary and Local Government electors under the service franchise. That is, they are considered as inhabiting a dwelling-house by virtue of their employment and the dwelling-house is not occupied by their employer.

Welfare Committee of the Ministry of Munitions.

The Minister of Munitions has appointed a Committee to advise him upon the general principles to be adopted in carrying out the Welfare and Health Work of the Ministry, and to report to him in all matters connected with the same, which may be referred to them by him from time to time. The members of the Committee are Mr. H. J. Tennant, C.H., Chairman; Mr. G. Bellhouse, C.B.E. (of the Home Office), Vice-Chairman; Mr. W. H. Allen, of Messrs. Allen & Sons, Bedford; Mr. A. F. Butler, O.B.E., of the Ministry of Munitions; Mr. Churchill, O.B.E.; Dr. E. L. Collis, Director of Welfare and Health Section of the Ministry of Munitions, Sir Walter Morley Fletcher, K.B.E., M.D., F.R.S., of Medical Research Committee; Dr. T. M. Legge, of the Home Office; Miss Mary Macarthur, of the National Federation of Women Workers; Mr. J. J. Mellor; Miss Violet Markham, C.H.; Mr. S. Mavor, of Messrs. Mavor & Coulson, Glasgow; and Miss Squire, O.B.E., Director of Women's Welfare in the Ministry of Munitions. The Secretary to the Committee is Mr. R. H. Crooke.

Some Events of the Week.

Three events, of great interest to all working for equality of opportunity for women with men, have been noted in this week's Press. One is the opening of the London Hospital to women medical students. The reluctance of some of the hospitals to allow women opportunity of hospital training has been one of the great bars to women entering the medical profession, and one of the most illogical, in view of the marked ability shown by women doctors. The second interesting announcement is the election of Miss Margaret Buchanan to a seat on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Miss Buchanan has been very active in training women dispensers and chemists. She is President of the Association of Women Pharmacists, and a partner in the firm of Messrs. Deane & Co., dispensing and analytical chemists. She is the first woman candidate for election to the Council, and her success augurs well for women's future position in the word of pharmacy. The third event of the week is the announcement that Miss Margaret Bondfield is to be one of the two British Labour Party's delegates to the National Convention of the American Federation of Labour. This announcement is a very welcome sequel to that of last week, when we learnt that Miss Bondfield had been adopted by the Labour Party as a Parliamentary candidate.

Obituary.

Doctor Helen Bourchier.

We are sorry to hear of the death of Dr. Helen Bourchier, a distinguished medical woman, and one of the oldest suffragists. She was one who, in the early days when women were refused medical degrees in this country, took her degree in Paris. She practised in India with great success. Some of her interesting writings described her experiences when holding an appointment in the household of an Indian prince. She worked for woman suffrage throughout her busy life, and her friends are glad to think she lived to see the victory of that cause. She died in a nursing home in London on May 10th.

Erratum.—*In our obituary of Lord Courtney of Penwith last week, "Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge" should have read "Professor of Political Economy at University College." We were, of course, referring to University College, London.*

The Status of Women after the War. III.

By Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

The question of the industrial freedom of women must necessarily be approached from the national point of view. We shall be a greatly poorer nation after the war. If we are to pay our way, and to spend more, as we ought, on education, on housing and other essentials of a civilised existence, we must maintain the high productiveness of the whole population which has enabled us to pull through the four years of the war with the success which I endeavoured to describe in the first of these articles. *The practical problem is to apply the lessons which we have learnt during the war to the future uses of peace.* High rates of taxation will be necessary for many years. We must continue to be thrifty and saving in our daily life; and avoid all idle and spendthrift extravagances. We must continue to use the great industrial capacities of women, not shutting them out, but welcoming them into the skilled trades and professions, so that each man and woman is able to do his or her very best work. At the same time the standard of life for the masses of the industrial classes, men and women alike, must be raised and not lowered. We must have better homes, better education, yes, and more leisure for the overworked masses. Lord Leverhulme has already indicated what he hopes to achieve in these directions, and how he expects to establish in his own works a six hours' day without any lowering of wages. We shall all watch that experiment with the deepest interest. As far as women are concerned, the root of the matter lies in the claim of "equal pay for equal output." Already the movement in this direction has made a great stride forward since February 6th, when the Royal Assent was given to the Representation of the People Bill. I understand (*Nineteenth Century*, January, 1918) that Mrs. Humphry Ward was deeply pained, and found it "difficult to forgive" the N.U.W.S.S. for pamphlets and other publications which claimed that the enfranchisement of women would have a very favourable influence upon their wages. I am afraid we were rather indifferent whether Mrs. Humphry Ward forgave us or not. We remembered an Anti-Suffrage Albert Hall meeting before the war, at which a member of the then Government gravely accused us of sheer dishonesty when we endeavoured to persuade working women that political power could have any influence on wages, and within three weeks from that date he was a consenting party to the Government of which he was a member introducing and passing quickly through all its stages a Bill to fix a minimum scale of wages for coal-miners. We believed, and continue to believe, that the fact that the miners were enfranchised had something to do with this. And so it will prove, as we confidently anticipate, in the case of women. The balm began to work very quickly. The Reform Bill became law on February 6th. In less than four weeks—on March 5th—the London County Council women teachers petitioned the Council against the proposed new scale of teachers' salaries; they protested against increasing the differentiation between the salaries of men and women, and demanded equal pay for equal work. The consequence was that, after a spirited debate, the proposed new scheme was rejected by an overwhelming majority. *The Times* of the following day gravely observed: "The rejection of the scale . . . . was an unexpected and emphatic victory for the women's claim. . . . Nor will it escape notice that the success, so far as it goes, synchronises very closely with the extension of the Parliamentary vote to women."

Let me not be misunderstood. We make no claim that women should be paid the same as men if they are proved to be less industrially or professionally capable than men: let them be paid according to the value of their work, and not at an artificially low rate simply because they are women. I see in the book I have already quoted that many employers consider that, on the whole, it will take three women to do the work of two men. If this proves to be correct, their wages must be in the same proportion; on the other hand, however, there are numerous instances, at the Parkhead Forge and elsewhere, where the labour of women was far more productive than the labour of men; this higher degree of productiveness should also be reflected in their wages. War experience, however, has stiffened the conviction of most feminists that a large proportion of the supposed lower productivity of female labour exists more in imagination than in reality. That a woman in the textile trade was paid at a lower rate than a man for the same work has, for instance, been accounted for, time out of mind, by saying that a woman was paid less because she was

incapable of "timeing" or "setting" her machine. Very few of those who used this formula took the trouble to explain that women, in pre-war days, were never given the opportunity of learning how to time or set a machine. It was looked upon, and accepted even by the women themselves, as a law of nature that a man could set a machine and that a woman could not.

To recapitulate:—After the war, in order to pay our way, and have the means of greatly improving education, housing and other important social needs, there must be high taxation, accompanied by great thrift and economy in all classes; there must be no waste of national resources, and especially no waste of the industrial and professional capacities of women. The domestic occupations of women must be organised on lines of preventing the waste of labour, fuel, and other forms of energy.

The Government and the trade unions must arrive at some plan of untying the difficult knot into which they have tied themselves. The Government, in return for great and important concessions from the trade unions, gave a definite promise that the trade union rules and regulations should be restored after the conclusion of peace. The position has to be candidly faced on both sides that this promise cannot be fulfilled. The war has caused huge industrial transformations, and it will be impossible to go back to pre-war conditions. But an unconditional promise was given that these conditions should be restored, and the honour of the nation was pledged that this promise should be kept. (Mr. Lloyd George, House of Commons, August 21st, 1916. Mr. Sidney Webb's book, page 25.) This pledge cannot be treated as a scrap of paper. If the promise given cannot be kept, some equivalent must be found which the workers will accept as not less desirable and advantageous to themselves. The two parties to the bargain must meet and arrive at a solution of the difficulty on terms satisfactory to each. Something may be done on the lines of the Whitley Commission and the giving of the workmen employed in any industry an insight into its management and a share in its control. In any case, no solution of the difficulty must be even thought of to which the Trade Unions are not consenting parties.

There is a parallel in the history of the Women's Suffrage movement which may act both as a warning and a guide. In November, 1911, Mr. Asquith, then Prime Minister, gave a definite and unqualified promise to a deputation representing all the Suffrage Societies, that the Reform Bill, which the Government had promised to introduce during the coming session of 1912, should be drafted in such a way as to admit of amendments embodying women's suffrage. The Prime Minister also undertook that the Government would allow the House a free vote on such amendments, and finally that they would regard any such amendment, if accepted by the House of Commons, as an integral part of the Bill to be defended by the Government in all its subsequent stages. Not one of these promises was kept. Understand me. I do not accuse the then Prime Minister and his colleagues of deliberate bad faith; but the Bill, when introduced, was a Registration Bill and not a Representation of the People Bill, and the Speaker ruled that Women's Suffrage amendments could not be added in Committee; such a course, he stated, would make it a new Bill and not the Bill of which the House had already passed the second reading. Many of us were furiously angry, and our anger was not lessened but rather increased by our political powerlessness. But what the heads of the suffrage movement most bitterly resented was that the Government never even attempted to make any new terms with the suffragists. The Prime Minister never said to us that, having been prevented by the Speaker's ruling from fulfilling his promise to us, he would like to consult us as to what other course he should pursue which we should accept as a satisfactory equivalent. We should have at once said "Give us a Government Reform Bill, including women's suffrage." But this course was not taken: those most concerned were never consulted, and all that the Prime Minister did was to give a day in the House of Commons for a free vote on a private member's Bill: none of the chief suffrage societies took any interest in this, because they knew that no private member could carry such a measure through all its stages; from the beginning it was hopeless; it was as a matter of fact defeated by forty-eight votes in May, 1913. I shall never forget the deep and intense resentment caused by the failure on the part of the Government of any recognition that they had really done nothing to redeem their promises given in November, 1911.

So I can the more readily enter into the feelings of the trade unionists should any similar policy be pursued in regard to the Government pledges to them. I cannot, however, imagine that this will be attempted. The trade unions are too strong politically to make this a real danger.

What women, especially women voters, should do is to press the national necessity for utilising the productive industrial capacities of women: encourage the women in industry to stand firm for the principle of equal pay for equal work; and not to act as blacklegs to their brothers and husbands; to help by all means in their power women to form trade unions, and to open to women in every locality means of industrial training. If these things are accomplished a new and happier era for women's industry is opening for the future: the old painful days of sweated labour and masses of women earning less than subsistence wages fade away like a bad dream, and the war, horrible and dreadful though in itself it is, will have brought to women not only political, but also industrial freedom. The war is a war for freedom. Let it be for women's freedom as well as men's.

Only one word more. Let us draw the moral. Never, even in the darkest hour, to give up hope. Hope means the trimming of the lamps, the girding of the loins for action. It is help, comfort, and inspiration. Let women especially realise the wickedness, the infidelity of ceasing to hope:—

"I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land."

Within Sound of the Guns.

Some Observations on the Conditions of Women's Labour in France.

I.

Face to face with the myriad complexities of our own Labour problems, we find it hard enough to treat them scientifically. Imagine, then, how infinitely more difficult and more desirable science becomes when Labour problems are still further complicated by the necessity for their immediate solution, when war is on the threshold, and the sound of gunfire in the worker's ear.

This is the situation in France to-day. And yet it remains describable as a "situation." With salient characteristics and distinguishable features, showing no sign of becoming the confusion one might expect in an invaded land where every available man is on military service.

The chief difference between dilution of labour in France and England is that in this country the woman's entry into a man's job has a prelude of Committees, Press correspondence, schemes and schedules, overburdened with "desirabilities," "tendencies," "eventualities"; in France the man has gone the work remains, and if it is to be done at all the woman must do it. Women were in men's places before committees could consider how best they were to be placed there. Science came to fit the situation in France—there was no time to fit the situation to science.

Although the situation is not one of confusion the disadvantages of haste are apparent. French women stepped into their present positions with very little or no training. Consequently most women's work in France is unskilled work and offers no great opportunity for advancement, while the older men in every trade and occupation have been rapidly promoted. This situation will present many difficulties to schemes of post-war reconstruction. The "Conseil National des Femmes françaises," which corresponds to our National Union of Women Workers, keeps a watchful eye upon all women's interests, assists in recruiting and placing women workers, but can do little to provide for their training or their admission to skilled or responsible posts.

The women who are working on munitions, though unskilled workers, are well cared for. The Ministry of Munitions sets this country a particularly good example in its care of working mothers and the importance it attaches to the health of mother and child. It has issued a leaflet containing rules for the construction of Chambres d'Allaitement in every factory, where the nursing mother can leave her baby during work hours and return at proper intervals to feed it; and though this is not universally carried out it is very rapidly spreading. The Ministry of

Munitions also makes provision for the building of crèches within factories where bottle-fed babies can be cared for, and for "garderies" where, up to the age of three, children of factory workers may be kept during work hours. The Ministry gives the most minute instructions as to the proper size of these nurseries relative to the number of babies contained, and the best means of airing, furnishing, and managing. Its motives are to produce healthy children, to economise in babies' milk, and to keep up the supply of women's factory labour.

The greatest demand for women's labour, in Paris as in London, is for clerical workers. For those who are attached to the French Army scientific regulations have been drawn up for their recruiting, employment, and promotion. The headquarters of an Army Corps is the recruiting centre, though actual recruiting is carried on by each division. The divisions report to headquarters the number of applicants for work and the number of posts to be filled, and arrangements are made for transferring women applicants to localities where they are needed, though consideration is given to an applicant's preference for a particular locality.

These women workers are divided into seven grades :—

(1) Superintendents and Department Heads.
(2) Secretaries.
(3) Shorthand-Typists.
(4) Typists.
(5) Copyists and Telephone Operators.
(6) Forewomen of Workrooms and Stores.
(7) Cooks, Laundresses, Washerwomen, &c.

After being recruited they are subjected to medical examination, and are then engaged on trial. If satisfactory they are retained, and wear a metal badge on the left arm stamped with the name of the Regiment or Service to which they are attached. Their hours of work are seven and a half hours a day for the first five grades, nine hours for grades 6 and 7. Overtime is compulsory, provided that the working day does not exceed ten hours, and is paid at a rate ten per cent. higher than ordinary work, or 40 per cent. higher if the overtime is worked at night.

The worker's salary is fixed by the Commanding General within the maximum and minimum for each grade of worker, which is also fixed by the local Commanding General, but is subject to annual revision by the French Government. In fixing maximum and minimum rates the Commanding General calls a meeting of a Commission, composed of the Commanders of Regiments and Services, which investigates the local rates of pay for similar work, rules of inspection, &c.

Promotion from one grade of work to another is possible, as well as promotion within the grade by increase of salary—increases of salary are given annually, except in special cases, when they may be given after six months.

On the whole women's work, both in clerical and other occupations, seems to be even less well paid than in England, and the fact that the price of food is very high causes many cases of very serious hardship. But, with the German Armies within gun-shot of Paris, and with the constant influx of refugees from devastated districts, these problems wait, with all the future of France, upon the issue of the war.

Hurried and confused as the entry of women into new work has necessarily been, it has brought to France, as to England, a new realisation of women's powers of service to the State. It is bringing to the women, too, a new understanding of their position, and in the passionate support that they are giving to their Army in its trial there lie the seeds of the future enfranchisement of French women.

R. S.

German Babies in War-Time.

BY EGBERT C. MORLAND.

Every animal passes through a stage in its life-history when it consists of a single cell, a minute speck of living matter requiring a lens to discern it, and at this stage it is curiously difficult even for the expert to decide whether the speck will develop into a water-flea, a hedgehog, or a human being. At the next stage, although the growing creature will evidently be a warm-blooded mammal, it seems still doubtful whether it is to be a dog, a whale, or an ape. At a later stage still the baby is just human without having yet acquired any national characters; it is just a baby—not an English baby or a German baby—but a baby, and the fact is curiously exemplified by the intelligencer of our Local Government Board, whose report* on infant welfare in Germany during the war reads like one of Sir Arthur Newsholme's reports with a few trifling alterations of names and dates. It recalls the surprise faintly tinged with annoyance felt by some of us at the public swimming bath when we were small, that in a state of nature one could not distinguish between one's brothers and the gamins or gutter-snipes. It was an early and salutary lesson in the value of externals. There is a fascinating theory which teaches that the history of the individual is in miniature the history of the race and that man climbs up his own genealogical tree. Perhaps the new-born babe is no more a Hun than he is the "little conservative" of W. S. Gilbert's drollery. However this may be, infant welfare work in Germany during the war, as narrated in this report, is very like infant welfare work in England during the war.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF WELFARE WORK.

Infant welfare work in Germany received a set-back when war broke out, but wiser counsels soon prevailed, and a great impetus followed. Municipal welfare centres were increased from their pre-war numbers, *e.g.*, Berlin, 9; Cologne, 13; Leipsic, 6; schemes were initiated for rural areas where, especially in Bavaria, conditions are bad: and the Imperial Association for the Care of Infants appealed to all its branches up and down the country to increase their activities. The pathetic statement is made that in some districts mothers were rarely found at home during the early weeks of the war. The excitement and general unrest resulted in mental distress, which led in its turn to a neglect of infant life. To meet the need, the supply of trained workers proved insufficient, and the period of training was perforce abridged. The imperial allowance to mothers who fed their infants at the breast resulted in a large increase in the practice, and the grant came to be administered through the welfare centres, although the Government declined to make this obligatory. The importance of this phase of work is illustrated by the Dantzig town doctor's report that breast feeding only increased when the maternity grant was supplemented by the personal efforts of the welfare association. In Mannheim, a physician said: "The revival of breast feeding, for which we have striven so long in years of peace, has suddenly come to pass in the midst of a world war." Work, too, has been extended in the direction of supervising children from one to five, and the distribution of milk has largely been undertaken by the centres. The expenses of the work have tended to fall more and more upon public funds with the corollary of control by the local authorities. The problems of the industrial employment of expectant and nursing women, and of the provision for the needs of children at creches and the like away from their homes, have apparently been as pressing in Germany as here.

DEDUCTIONS FROM FIGURES.

The most valuable part of the report for those who have had the required training in exact thinking is the first appendix giving the number of live births in German towns during the years 1913-16, and the infant mortality rates among various sections of the population taken from official sources. The figures are often incomplete, but taken as they are from journals published in Germany, devoted to infant welfare, local government, medicine and social reform, they may be taken as an honest statement, and we must be careful to make honest deductions from them. This is by no means easy to do, especially when space is limited, as one example may suffice to show. In a leading article in the *Times* of May 17th occurs the sentence :—

"The rapid decline in national vitality was further enhanced in Germany by an extraordinary rise of infant mortality in the third quarter of 1914."

The "rapid decline" to which allusion is made is the diminution in births resulting from the transference to one or other front of a very large proportion of the men of procreating age ; the phrase, if technically correct, is perhaps misleading in the same way as it would be to speak of the decline in vitality of a chicken-farm if chanticleer had strayed away. But it is in the phrase, "extraordinary rise" of death-rate among German infants during the months July to September, 1914, that there has been some loss by compression. The relevant passage in the report itself is as follows :—

"The increase in the rate of infant mortality in the first months of war was observed with much concern by health authorities. Enquiries were made by a number of leaders in infant welfare work in

*Report prepared in the Intelligence Department of the Local Government Board. 1918. H.M. Stationery Office. Price, 6d.

order to determine the causes to which the increase might be attributed. The general consensus of opinion, arrived at independently by investigators in different towns and states, was that, although some influence must be attributed to the heat and drought of the two months in question, the rise was not in the main to be attributed to this cause.

"Reference may be made in this connection to the experience of this country during the same period. The records for England and Wales do not show any higher mortality in the third quarter of 1914 than of 1913, so that, although the summer of 1914 was hotter and drier than the average, the conditions in this country were not specially unfavourable to infant life.

"The main cause of the rise in the rate of infant mortality in Germany at this period was not to be looked for, according to observers in that country, in the economic distress which followed on mobilisation. The calling-up of the fathers of so many young families left the mothers with very meagre resources, while among the men not taken for military service there was for a time widespread unemployment. The excitement and general mental disturbance caused by war conditions seem also to have had a serious effect on the welfare of infants and young children; and, judging from some accounts, may have been the predominating factor in the high mortality rates."

The "Continental" Summer.

We quote the passage at length, because it is an interesting example of the difficulties that arise at once in the interpretation of mortality figures. We have our own differences at home in regard to the relative part played by the ignorance of mothers and the external circumstances with which they have to contend. Poverty, bad habits, bad housing, and our portentous urban smoke-clouds have all been credited with the lion's share in destroying child-life. But at all events we should go back one stage further and look at the figures themselves and see in what this "extraordinary rise of infant mortality" consists before accepting or explaining it. In Prussia, with its forty million inhabitants, the infant mortality for the third quarter (the figures are given in the Appendix) of 1914 was 143, as against 171 in 1913, and 312 in the specially hot and dry summer of 1911. In Saxony, with its five millions, and Bavaria, with its seven millions, the corresponding figures for 1914 were higher, but these are both purely inland states with a "Continental" summer, and although 1914 was not as hot as 1911, anyone who was abroad at the time will never forget the pitiless sunshine and continued blue sky of the early August days which seemed to mock at the great upheaval. We hardly realise in this country the tremendous danger to infant life of the Continental summer; in Cologne during August, 1911, the rate was 688—that is to say, that if it had continued throughout the year rather more than two-thirds of the city's infants would have died.

Progress Judged by Results.

It is only fair, too, to take into consideration the heat-diarrhœa death-rate in comparing the German figures with those of other cooler and more sea-girt countries. Besides quoting the figure of 199 for the German Empire on the 1901-05 average compared with, say, 148 for Belgium and 81 for Norway, it would be honest to point out the extraordinary improvement recently in the figures for some of the largest towns with the worst record. Between 1914 and 1916 Dantzig came down from 195 to 126, Königsberg from 197 to 136, and Stettin from 203 to 151. Berlin-Schöneberg has actually got down to two figures (91) in the latter year. "It is always a useful corrective to look at the actual results," writes the L.G.B. intelligencer in his preface, and here are some results which compare very closely with the figures of our own Lancashire and Durham mining areas, and for which presumably the same factors are largely responsible.

Wasted Woman-Power.

A Letter from Doctor Helen Wilson.

At a private conference of men and women who met to consider whether anything more could be done to meet the sex problems of war time, a letter was read from Dr. Helen Wilson in which she raises a point which has not hitherto received much attention. It may be that a great source of "woman-power" is running to waste with devastating consequences, simply because we have not yet understood how to turn it to use.

We are permitted to quote Dr. Wilson's letter:—

"The question has a men's side, and a women's side,—as well as a good deal of common ground.

"I have the deepest sympathy with the men's side, but I shall not say anything about that because I know that it will be fully stated. I want to put the women's side—or at least part of it—as I have gathered it from some of those who love the wild girls and who live with and for them, just as the Y.M.C.A. workers love the men, and live with and for *them*.

"There are many kinds of women mixed up in this business: the mentally defective, the moral imbeciles, the deliberately vicious, the hopelessly weak. But I want to speak of a different group, girls just like those men whom 'Student in Arms' describes in his beautiful chapter on 'Some who were lost and found.' They are the girls for whom no place has yet been found in our scheme of things. Now-a-days, almost every woman of character and capacity is usefully employed, and working in some way for her country. But a girl cannot get into the Waacs, or the Land Army, or hospital work without good character references. What is to happen to the girl who has no reference because she has been unruly, uncontrolled, adventurous? She is not all bad; if she had been a man she would have joined up in the first year of the war, with no questions asked as to character; she would have been physically trained, disciplined, inspired with *esprit de corps*; she would very likely have won the Victoria Cross, because there would have been an outlet for those very qualities which are so embarrassing in civil life.

"You may say she could make munitions; but factory life has never been regarded as a school of female virtue, and it is an impossible life for the type to whom I refer. The male counterpart of these girls, the restless, adventurous, unruly youth does not go into munition works, or, if he does, he does not stay there long. The monotonous work is too much for him; he either goes off on his own accord and enlists, or gets sacked for idleness and mischief.

"I believe these girls constitute the centre of this special problem in war time. They crave instinctively some place in the seething life of the war; if no place is found for them, they make a place for themselves, the wrong place,—yet with a vague feeling that they are meeting some kind of need by giving the soldiers 'a good time.' They often degenerate and become vampires and wolves, but they *might* have been something else, if we have had the wit to seize and use their contribution in the right way.

"We are waiting for the genius who will know how to enlist these wild girls in some 'Death or Glory Brigade,' or 'Dare-devil Battalion,' which will do for them what the Army has done for the wild youths—take them as they are, in all their unruliness, teach them discipline, make them physically fit, and then give them some rough and dangerous work to do, work in which they may save their souls by losing them.

"Lastly, may I refer to one of the grim things that must be faced by those who are seriously trying to understand the problem of venereal disease. Those who work among men know the bitter resentment they often feel towards the woman who infected them. The women feel just the same bitter resentment towards the men, they want to 'pay back,' and they don't care how many other men they infect. This is a factor to reckon with in both sexes.

"Surely it reinforces the argument I used above. The diseased girl feels that her life is spoiled. (This is not true, of course, but she believes it is.) She thinks her life is spoiled: she is ready to throw it away for a good cause if anyone would give her a chance. Failing that she throws it away on a bad cause—namely, what she calls pleasure. One Rescue Worker put it thus: 'The girl will try to hurt men, if she can't help them. What she can't do is to keep away from them.'

"These remarks of mine are not practical—they offer no remedy. But I hope they may help towards an understanding of the problem, and so, ultimately, towards its solution."

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Reviews.

Population and Birth Control. By C. Killick Millard, M.D., D.Sc. (Published by W. Thornley & Son, Leicester. 1s.)

This interesting pamphlet is the Presidential Address delivered by Doctor Killick Millard before the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, on October 8th, 1917. Dr. Millard is Medical Officer of Health and Chief Administrative Tuberculosis Officer for Leicester. He is also Medical Superintendent of the Borough Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium: Municipal Officer to the Infants' Milk Depôt; Vice-Chairman of the U.C. Leicester Health Society; and Honorary Secretary of the Leicester Branch of the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease.

His thesis in this address is that the world-wide fall in the human birth-rate which has taken place in recent years is due to the spread of birth-control principles, and is a mark not of decadence but of advancing civilisation. In Doctor Millard's opinion, the movement will tend to check future wars, and to diminish poverty and immorality: it may be, in fact, a valuable eugenic instrument, capable, by restricting the multiplication of the least fit, of greatly raising the quality of the race. In answer to the political objection that the nations which limit their population may be overwhelmed by those who do not, he argues that the more backward nations of the world will continue to have their populations limited by the old, 'natural checks' of war, famine, and pestilence, and that when they get sufficiently civilised to avoid these evils, they, too, will begin to practice birth control, and so all will be on a level. In answer to the moral objections, he argues that the moral effect of limitation depends on the motives for which it is practised, that the soundest basis of morality is the greatest happiness of the greatest number, and that, in the words of Archbishop Temple, "sometimes what we think is evil is not so evil in reality as what we, in our ignorance, would put in its place. Often what we fancied is hurtful has proved of the greatest service."

Whatever may be thought of Doctor Millard's thesis, it is certain that, at a time when many civilised people are practising birth control, some of them from most conscientious motives, while others regard it with horror, the matter ought to be thought about and seriously discussed. Those who are just beginning to think about it will find it useful to get this pamphlet and examine its conclusions.

Correspondence.

[We regret that, owing to paper restrictions, our space for correspondence is very limited; Correspondents are, therefore urged to write briefly. Letters must reach us by first post on Monday, and must be written on one side of the paper only. If these conditions are complied with, we will do our best to print the most important letters.]

THE ETHICS OF "PROPHYLAXIS" AND OF CONTROVERSY.

Madam,—Dr. Ethel Williams has been misled by the misuse, in this connection, of the word "phophylaxis"—as I was until I informed myself of what is actually done. These disinfectants are usualy applied just *after* possible infection. This is really *earliest*, rather than "early," treatment, and is proportionately more effective. Elsewhere I have protested against the misuse of the Greek word. Some think that "prophylactic treatment" is better; *i.e.*, treatment which is prophylactic or preventive of symptoms. My identification of this practice with the use of silver for the new-born eye is absolute.

Let me reiterate, a little wearily, that the attempt to evade the moral issue by doubting the physical efficacy of *early disinfection*—the best term of all, in my judgment—is futile; it saves the present trouble of real thinking, which is no everyday occurrence, but breeds worse troubles to come.

Dr. Williams does not refer to my quotation from myself, showing that I had deeply emphasised the fundamental principle she accused me of missing.

I fear, indeed, that we should soon have to discuss not only the ethics of "prophylaxis" but the ethics of controversy if much of your correspondence, Madam, is like what reaches myself. Even in the letter which you print, following that of Dr. Ethel Williams, the first sentences are an inexcusable misrepresentation. Your correspondent says I suggest that "ultimately we may be driven in the direction of morality in connection with the fight against disease. If morality be the highest line of outward conduct, why put off urging its adoption?"

Your correspondent has fine phrases later, and quotes a noble line of Browning; but the controversialist who can suggest that I, Vice-Chairman of the National Council of Public Morals, for sixteen years a public advocate of sex morality, who have travelled scores of thousands of miles by day and night since September, 1914, to teach self-control to our young soldiers, "put off urging" the adoption of sex morality, or that I do not and did not in your columns urge real morality now, instead of fear of disease, as the motive for right conduct, is guilty of something worse than misunderstanding.

C. W. Saleeby.

[*This correspondence must now close.*—Ed., Common Cause.]

MRS. FAWCETT'S ARTICLES.

MADAM,—I must apologise to you and your readers for an error which appears in my article in last Friday's COMMON CAUSE. It occurs in the 12th line from the top, where I say that since the war there has been "a slightly higher birth rate." I should have said "a slightly lower birth rate, compensated by a decided decline in the death rate, especially as regards infant mortality." Sir Bernard Mallet's Presidential Address, given to the Royal Statistical Society last December, includes very interesting tables on this subject and shows that after three and a-half years of war the population of the United Kingdom was 904,000 greater than at the beginning of 1914.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

MADAM,—I always read Mrs. Fawcett's articles with great interest, but will you allow me, as an old Catholic, to say that she has been misinformed when told that "no woman in that Church is permitted even to touch the linen, the vessels, or any of the objects connected with the altar." Permission is necessary for anyone *not in Holy Orders* to touch certain articles, but men require this permission equally with women.

MARY TERESA GORDON.

A FARM FOR WOMEN.

MADAM,—It is probable that many of the educated women who have taken up work on the land from patriotic motives, and who will have to earn their own living in the future, will want to utilise the experience gained when the return of the men at the end of the war has displaced their labour.

With a view to giving such women an opening, a farm of 250 acres on the Berkshire and Oxfordshire borders has been placed at the disposal of the Women's Farm and Garden Union for an immediate experiment, in the hope that, should this prove successful, other similar women's co-operative farm colonies may be started later. The point of this offer is that at this stage there should be no question of purchase (although the owner would be ready to sell), but that the women should come in as tenant farmers; as, however, few women can afford to risk their small capital in what is of the nature of an experiment, it will be necessary to raise the required capital for stocking and running expenses. This farm has been inspected by an expert and pronounced very suitable for the purpose. It consists of equal proportions of arable and pasture, the buildings can easily be brought up to modern requirements, and there is sufficient good housing to admit of friends living in groups instead of being all under one roof. It is proposed to work the scheme as a co-operative colony under the rules of the Agricultural Organisation Society.

The farm is immediately available, owing to illness of the present tenant, and as there is already a great demand for it, this offer obviously cannot be open long. June 1st has been fixed as the limit by which an answer must be given; this answer depends on whether a number of people will be forthcoming sufficiently interested in this branch of women's work to help in raising the required capital for stocking and working, which will amount altogether to about £6,000. If sufficient response is not made by the date named to justify the Women's Farm and Garden Union taking over the farm, they will be obliged to refuse the offer, and an exceptionally favourable opportunity for trying this experiment will be missed.

Those wishing to invest capital or to take an active part in the scheme should communicate with the Women's Farm and Garden Union, at 50, Upper Baker Street, London, N.W. 1, where a plan of the farm is on view, and where all further particulars can be had.

CAROLINE GROSVENOR,
Chairman, Women's Farm and Garden Union.
L. WILKINS,
Chairman, Women's National Land Service Corps.

"EDIE PARKER" AND THE SLUMS.

MADAM,—On page 43, May 10th, 1918, of our COMMON CAUSE is a quite natural story of a wee Edie Parker who would not stay in the lovely country because the one thing of beauty she loved was "her 'Erb.," and he was left on the Hoxton asphalt court.

The facts of child-life in London, illustrated by this poem, and which I can confirm from my own experience in my Whitechapel home of twenty years, make me wonder again when the great question of the children and young people in slums is going to be faced by the nation.

There are first the quite little children. From my window I watch darling, wee mites of two and three (while the older brothers and sisters are in school) stand and stand, and then plop down on the only place our workers have to sit on, the bottom steps of their Building staircase.

Try to realise my sickening feelings (who, as Poor Law Guardian, meet many a little one suffering in my Infirmary Ward) when down the dust-shoot (which is by the side of such steps) rattles the refuse, from one landing and another. Baby looks round at the noise! Surely some dust escapes through the cover, and flies over the soft yellow curls of the most precious crop in England—our Babies. If this refuse could be consumed on the premises and used to generate a hot water system, as I believe is done in some buildings, the babies might be saved from this infection. Such an improvement would, moreover, change the lives of their mothers, now no better than slaves, since many of them wash, every year, three acres of dishes, scrub twenty-four acres of floor, and walk about 2,120 miles in the course of their house-work.

Then coming to the older children and young people. We are told that many of them fall into wrong-doing: can anyone wonder at it! When I enter our Building's gate in the evening, I find a crowd of boys and girls lolling against the wall and gate. They are full of young, hot blood, they have mostly come from long hours in monotonous work, in stuffy air, and their relief would be to rush, jump, run. No—if they kick a ball, a policeman regretfully stops them. "Windows too near!" When I look at our tiny park, I long for it to have been left a field so that all our young might play over it. The few stiff beds, the grass that none may go on, seem so useless. The children don't crowd into the one corner where they *may* play, all asphalted by the Wall. Have you noticed that our working class has no place to sit? It is

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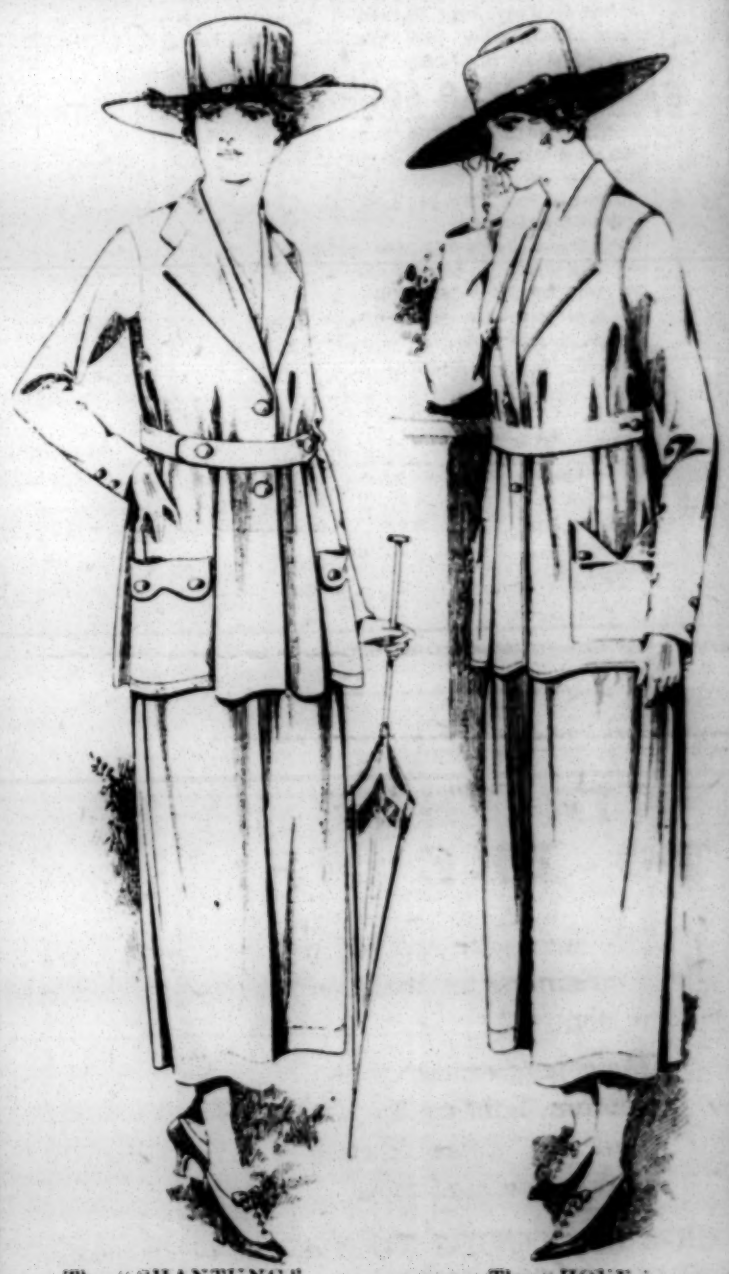

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"Nor sense of stillness when they cease
When wind of evening falls,
The only "Three" in Three Mill Lane
Is found in Golden Balls.

"And there are many Mary Drews
In upper rooms who lie,
Scarce knowing how the sickness came,
Who only know they die."

M. H.

Reports and Notices.

The Future of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

GENERAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS ON MAY 27TH.

Members of the London Society are reminded that the important General Meeting, of which they have already received notice will take place at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Monday, May 27th, at 5 o'clock. All members who can do so are warmly invited to come at 4 o'clock to meet Mrs. Fawcett at tea before the beginning of the business.

The object of the meeting is to discuss the future of the society and the changes in its constitution which are necessary for the more efficient carrying out of the enlarged aims of the N.U.W.S.S. decided on at the Council Meeting. Mrs. Fawcett will propose a resolution that the Society shall enlarge its aims, so as to embrace the new objects of the N.U.W.S.S., and that it shall develop the Women's Service Bureau in accordance with these aims, and shall at once endeavour to raise fresh funds in order that it may be on a sound financial basis and able to profit by the magnificent opportunities of service offered by the present time.

Afterwards the rules of the Society will be considered in detail in relation to its enlarged scope.

Besides the large share which the London Society has always taken, and must always take in the general work of the Union, it has, during the last three and a-half years, made a special contribution to the cause of equal opportunities for women. The Women's Service Bureau started in the first week of the war and continued with constantly-increased energy and wider and wider scope ever since, is not only a very important piece of national work, it is also feminist work of the first magnitude. The forty thousand women who have been personally interviewed in the Bureau and with many of whom a continuous relation has been kept up, have come from all parts of the country, the innumerable enquiries that are made by letter come from all parts of the world. The women who have been placed in employment as munition workers, aeroplane workers, land workers, teachers, 'bus conductors, forage inspectors, lamplighters, traction engine drivers, electricians, plumbers, cooks, V.A.D.'s, policewomen, motor drivers, Government clerks, secretaries, etc., etc., have all in the course of their transactions with the Bureau learned something about the proper conditions of employment for women and their duties in regard to the community and the economic position of their own sex. The employers with whom they have been placed, including Government departments, municipal and county authorities, City firms, banks, factories, and private employers of all kinds, have perhaps learned even more. The fact that the women who have come to the Bureau for help, and through them, many thousands of others whom they have influenced, have been encouraged to seek training, and to go into the service of the community as thoroughly efficient skilled workers instead of mere amateur stop-gaps, has undoubtedly made a real and far-reaching difference in the present position of women in the economic world. (The training department of Women's Service has given or arranged for training in such widely-different occupations as Oxy-Acetylene Welding, Elementary Engineering, Teaching, Midwifery, Agriculture, Domestic and Secretarial work, Glassblowing, Lensmaking, Tracing, Draughtsmanship, and Dental Mechanics; and grants and loans have been provided to help those who could not have been trained otherwise.)

But the good that Women's Service has achieved for the position of women in the past is nothing to what it may achieve in the future, if only it can raise funds to go on with its work and to extend its scope. In the last three and a-half years it has been carried out, side by side with the suffrage work of the Society, by special workers with specially raised funds. But now, when the objects of the N.U.W.S.S. include the gaining of equal economic opportunities for women, and when it is becoming clearer and clearer that the next great crux of the women's movement will be in the economic world, such a powerful and finely-tempered instrument as the London Society has forged may be of immeasurable service to the National Union and to the whole feminist cause.

The meeting, which will decide the future of the Society, is, therefore, of very great importance. It is open to members only. Every member who can possibly get there is urged to attend. Those who cannot do so, and all friends, are asked to make an immediate contribution to the funds of the Society, so that it may at once be placed on a secure financial basis. Members who are unavoidably prevented by other work from giving their support and counsel at the meeting should, if possible, send money or promises beforehand, as it will be a great help to those present in planning the future if they know what they have to go on in the way of funds. At least £5,000 a year is needed by the Society—about half for women's service, and half for the other work on the programme of the Union, including political and social equality work and the founding of Women Citizens' Associations, in which the Society is taking a vigorous part, in co-operation with other women's organisations in various districts of London. But, of course, a much larger sum ought to be forthcoming, if the work of Women's Service is to be extended as it ought to be in the coming years.

MEMBERS, PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING!

FRIENDS, PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS!

MEN AND WOMEN, SUPPORTERS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, IF YOU LIVE IN LONDON, AND DO NOT YET BELONG TO THE SOCIETY, PLEASE JOIN IT WITHOUT DELAY!

All enquiries should be sent to the Secretary, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Notes from Headquarters.

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Our readers will be surprised to see a fresh list of donations to the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units, as the work came to an end last summer. It is due to the fact that our reserve fund of £450 for the return journeys is still locked up in a Petrograd bank by the Bolshevik Government, and is not, therefore, available to pay off the debts incurred in the return of the Units. A number of kind friends have come forward, therefore, with donations, almost covering our debts, and we tender them grateful thanks for money that we shall treat as a loan when and if the Bolsheviks allow us to recover our money in Petrograd.

We are also much indebted to a kind friend, who has sent us some old plate and old-fashioned jewellery to sell for the benefit of the N.U. General Fund and THE COMMON CAUSE Fund and Hut. We shall be very grateful if other friends will follow her example, and allow us to convert into gold and silver for active service the old gold and silver lying by in cupboards and boxes.

The Celebration Fund, which was raised in connection with the meeting, amounts to £1,700 3s. 7d., of which £1,111 3s. 8d. comes to Headquarters, and the remainder has been distributed among the Societies who helped to organise the meeting. For the benefit of Headquarters, the Fund is still open, and donations to it will be gratefully received.

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Mrs. Ashcroft, per Miss Rose	5	15	0
Mrs. Tiffany	5	3	6
Mrs. Tiffany	5	3	6
Miss Alice Bolton...	1	10	0
Miss Eden	1	0	0
Miss L. C. Kempson	10	0	0
Mrs. Corbett Ashby	1	1	0
Miss Sterling		10	0
Miss H. C. Deneke	1	1	0
Mrs. Osler	5	0	0
Miss Stoehr	50	0	0
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Miss B. A. Clough	10	0	0
Mrs. Rosamond E. Willis ...	10	0	0
Mrs. W. H. Bowman	10	0	0
Miss S. R. Courtauld	10	0	0
Lady Mary Murray	10	0	0
Miss E. F. Rathbone	10	0	0
Mrs. Alys Russell...	10	0	0
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Miss Lilly Coats	10	0	0
Sale of Coat	1	1	0
	£12,447	11	4

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	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since Nov. 1st, 1917	1,682	4	6
Received from May 7th to 17th, 1918:			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Lady Horsley		10	6
Miss A. E. Burden		2	0
Mrs. Stanley Jonson		2	0
Mrs. Philip Snowden	1	1	0
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Dorking and Leith Hill W.S.S.	2	0	0
Kilmacolm W.S.S.		12	6
Ackworth W.S.S.		9	0
St. Andrews W.S.S.		17	6
Llangollen W.S.S.		12	3
Bracknell W.S.S.		10	0
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Mrs. Norman Maclehose, Sale of plate and old fashioned jewellery	3	5	0
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	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	388	9	8
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Miss Dumbleton		2	6
Mrs. Norman MacLehose ...	1	12	6
Miss L. M. Howell	10	0	0
Miss F. Phipps		1	0
Mrs. Smithson	2	0	0
	£402	8	2

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

58, Victoria Street. S.W. 1.

(National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.)

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

MONDAY, MAY 27th, 1918, at 5 p.m.,

in the

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER.

To consider changes in the constitution of the London Society for Women's Suffrage consequent on the passing of the Representation of the People Act.

Chairman: THE LADY EMMOTT.

Speakers: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., and others.

Only those members whose subscriptions have been paid are qualified to attend.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS MAY BE PAID AT THE DOOR.

Members are urged to make a special endeavour to be present on this important occasion.

By the kindness of a friend, they are *invited to tea at the hall at 4.30, to meet Mrs. Fawcett.*

Reports from Societies.

SOUTHPORT.—A meeting was held on May 13th in Chapel Street Schoolroom, Speaker, Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, on "How the Vote affects the Working Woman." Chairman, Rev. J. S. Crisall, M.A. The following resolution was carried:—"That the meeting emphasises the tremendous responsibility devolving on every elector and calls upon each woman who posseses a vote to use it, not in the interests of a party but for promoting the highest welfare of the community." Miss Emily Rigby then spoke on the report of the last Council meetings.

NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.—The Suffrage Society has now dissolved and merged into a Women Citizens' Association. A meeting organised by the Hon. Sec. was held at the Unity Hall on May 8th, when it was unanimously resolved, on the proposition of the Mayoress, to form a W.C.A. for Newport and district. Miss Mercer ably explained the object and aims of such associations. Dr. Tugwell, Rector of Carlbourne and Rural Dean of West Wight, followed with a clever speech, saying "Eve had taken a bite off another apple, but on this occasion the apple was both lawful and juicy." A temporary committee was formed, consisting of six W.S.S. members, with Mrs. Hobart as President, Mrs. Pring Treasurer, Miss Gander Hon Sec. *pro tem.* Miss L. Hills, Hon. Sec. W.S.S. since the formation of the Society, could not accept the office, being Hon. Sec. for the Isle of Wight Women's War Agricultural Society.

ORREL AND DISTRICT WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held in the District Council Offices on Tuesday, May 7th. Over 60 women and a few men were present. In the unavoidable absence of Councillor Eleanor Rathbone, of Liverpool, Miss Macadam, Director of the Liverpool School of Social Science, gave an address. She chose as her subject "Training for Citizenship," and showed how essential it is that women should gain all the knowledge they possibly can so as to fit themselves to exercise the franchise. There was an interesting discussion in which there took part Mrs. Johnson who has this year been elected the first woman Chairman of the local Board of Guardians. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28th, and it is hoped that many more members will be enrolled.

BRADFORD.—The Bradford Society held its Annual Meeting and an At Home to celebrate the enfranchisement of women, on May 14th at the Office. The Secretary read the annual report and balance sheet and showed that though a decreased membership had to be chronicled, it had been caused principally by the upheaval due to the war and not to indifference or apathy. On the contrary, the keenest interest was taken in the future of the N.U. by the Bradford members and there is a unanimous hope that it may stand for many years to come as the leading feminist organisation, with an enlarged sphere of activities. Mrs. Burnham spoke of the future work of the Society and of the formation of a Women Citizens' Association in co-operation with the Women Workers and the already existing local Women Citizens' Association. A public meeting, at which Mrs. Fisher was the speaker, had already been held and a committee elected. It was hoped that the Association would do a great educational work. Mrs. Grattan Newboult gave an interesting report of the Annual Council Meeting.

The Bradford Suffragists then put aside their own schemes and controversies, and even the war for an all too brief period, and the evening was finished off in the pleasantest and gayest manner with recitations and coffee. Miss Gotthard delighted us with her delivery of Yorkshire stories, and Miss Margaret Newboult and Miss Sheila Riley gave much pleasure in their turn. We welcome these two young ladies in our somewhat elderly midst, and hoped that when their turn comes they will be as good and ardent feminists as their mothers.

We are convinced that we could guarantee the conversion of any Anti-Suffragists, however perverse, if they could have the good fortune to taste coffee as made by the Bradford Suffragists in the Bradford Suffrage Office.

The L.C.C. is employing women on semi-skilled labor in fire-brigade workshops, and also as car-washers.

The recent Liverpool local recruiting campaign for women land-workers obtained 1,000 in the first two days of the week.

Mr. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board, addressing a large meeting at Arundel Castle on May 11th, urged the necessity of a vigorous policy of maternity and child welfare. The foundation of this policy was the appointment of properly-trained Health Visitors; in 1914 there were only 600, now there were 2,000. He outlined a Government scheme for the treatment of necessitous mothers, and infants up to five, half cost to be borne by the State, and half by local authorities. Mr. Fisher added that to his mind housing was the root of the health question, and before he left the Local Government Board he hoped to lay on the table of the House a great National Housing Policy.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

MAY 25.

Bristol — Knowle — Speaker: Mrs. W. C. H. Cross — 3 p.m.

MAY 27.

Caxton Hall, S.W. — London Society for Women's Suffrage—General Members' Meeting 5 p.m.

Brixton—Wesley Hall, Lyham Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram—Subject: "The Vote and Women's Responsibilities" 3.30 p.m.

MAY 28.

East St. Pancras — Women's Liberal and Labour Association, Gladstone House, High Street, Camden Town—Speaker: Miss Phyllis Anderson — 3.30 p.m.

MAY 29.

Birmingham—Erdington Lecture Hall—Mrs. Ring — 3 p.m.

Birmingham—Lady Clerks' Annual Meeting—Mrs. Ring — 7.30 p.m.

W. Southwark — Farmhouse Mission, Harrow Street, Borough Street, S.E. — Speaker: Miss Curwen—Subject: "Women's Service" — 8 p.m.

MAY 30.

Lambeth — Brew House, St. Mary's Church, Lambeth Road, S.E.—Subject: "Florence Nightingale"—Speaker: Miss Edith Palliser 3 p.m.

Blackheath—Girls' Club, Memorial Room, St. John's Park, Blackheath, S.E.—Subject: "The Representation of the People Act" — 7.45 p.m.

MAY 31.

Solihull—Industrial and National Legislation—Mrs. Ring — 5.30 p.m.

JUNE 1.

Hoxton—Girls' Club—Speaker: Miss Mary Fielden—Subject: "The Vote and its Responsibilities" — 7.30 p.m.

JUNE 6.

Lambeth — Brew House, St. Mary's Church, Lambeth Road, S.E.—Subject: "Miss Elizabeth Fry" Speaker: Miss Fox — 3 p.m.

Denmark Hill — People's Church, Windsor Road, S.E. — Speaker: Dr. Saleeby, M.R.S. — Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves—Subject: "Sex Morality and Health" — 7 p.m.

LONDON UNITS, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

MAY 24th.—Aske's Hatcham Girls' School, New Cross—Speaker: Miss May Curwen — 2.30 p.m.

MAY 25th.—Church Room, Limpsfield, Surrey—Speaker: Miss May Curwen — 5.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

MAY 29th.—Holborn Hall, Grays Inn Road, W.C.—The Free Church League for W.S.—Devotional Meeting, 2.45 p.m.—Annual Business Meeting, 3.30 p.m.—Tea and 11b. Sale, 5.30 p.m. — Entertainment, 7.0-9.0 p.m. — Tickets for Entertainment 1s. from the League, 30, Holborn Hall, W.C.

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BEST CORSET BODICE
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NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.
Adequate support WITHOUT bones.
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Miss Maude Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, at the 6 p.m. service.

Miss Maude Royden will preach a special series of sermons on moral problems in the City Temple, at the 6 p.m. service in June, as follows:—

June 9.—Christ's teaching about the Body
" 16.—The Sex-Problem To-day.
" 23.—Christianity and the Marriage Laws.
" 30.—The Future.

"A Shameful Sacrifice," an address delivered in the City Temple by Miss Maude Royden, in which she deals with questions raised by the "tolerated house" at Cayeux, has been published as a penny pamphlet by the Christian Commonwealth, Salisbury-square, E.C. 4.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—Britain and India. Public Lecture by J. M. Parikh, on "The Story of the Indian National Congress," Thursday, May 30th, at 7.30 p.m., at No. 11, Tavistock-square, W.C. 1. Admission Free. Underground Euston-square (Metropolitan Railway). 'Buses 68, 77, 77a pass the door.

NATIONAL WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.
PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CAXTON HALL,
FRIDAY, MAY 31st, AT 5 P.M.

SPEAKERS: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., President, N.U.W.W., Miss Conway, President, N.U.T., Miss Clephan, Leicester Women Citizens' Association, the Rt. Hon. Sir W. H. Dickinson, M.P., the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Mrs. Bowlker, and (sailings permitting) Miss J. M. Higgins, of the American Delegation. Tickets on receipt of stamped, addressed envelope to Secretary, N.W.C.A., Grosvenor-mansions, 82, Victoria-street, S.W. 1.

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HOUSE HELP WANTED to assist in household duties and give some attendance to elderly lady (not an invalid). Someone interested in gardening preferred. Must be fond of country life. Experience not essential.—M., Lavant Hill House, Lurgashall, Petworth, Sussex.

[Continued on page 72.

Continued from page 71.]

TWO LADIES required as House-Orderlies in a large private Boarding School for Girls. Eight ladies on Domestic Staff.—Apply Miss Turner, The Laurels, Rugby.

WANTED.—Ladies as representatives to an old-established Mutual Assurance Society. Excellent prospects and remuneration. An entirely new opening for women, can be worked in spare time. General advice also given to enquirers on assurance matters.—Apply Miss Rochford, 39, King-street, E.C.2.

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